

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08801 050934Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 SSO-00 ACDA-10 EB-04 IO-06 L-01 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OES-02 SP-02 PM-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /065 W
-----052920 050955Z /14

O P 050812Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4862
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8801

LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, FR, PK, ENRG
SUBJ: VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER PONIATOWSKI TO TEHRAN

1. TEHRAN HAS BEEN BUZZING WITH RUMORS CONCERNING SURPRISE
VISIT OF FORMER FRENCH MINISTER PONIATOWSKI, WHO HAD AUDIENCE
WITH SHAH OCTOBER 3. GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT VISIT HAD
TO DO WITH FRENCH EFFORT TO SELL TWO ADDITIONAL FRAMATOME
NUCLEAR REACTORS, BUT BEYOND THAT POINT INTERPRETATIONS DIFFER.

2. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN TEHRAN THAT CONTRACTUAL ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THAT SALE HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AND THAT SIGNING
CEREMONY HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN LATE SEPTEMBER. REPORTS HAVE
IT THAT CEREMONY WAS ABORTED BY TELEPHONE CALL FROM PALACE
AT PRECISE MOMENT SIGNATURE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

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3. SOME OBSERVERS ATTRIBUTE DELAY TO FINANCING PROBLEMS.
HOWEVER, DRAMATIC MANNER IN WHICH SALE SUSPENDED, AS WELL
AS LEVEL OF VISIT INHERENT IN PONIATOWSKI TRIP MAKE THAT
SOUND UNLIKELY. GERMAN AMBASSADOR, CITING TRADE SOURCES,
UNDERSTOOD SALE WAS BEING "TIED IN" TO FRENCH-PAKISTAN
ARRANGEMENT, AND HAS INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT SHAH IS

ALSO SEEKING REPROCESSING PLANT.

4. I HAVE TOLD GERMAN THAT, BASED ON OUR KNOWLEDGE OF SHAH'S CONSISTENT POSITION ON PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT, AND ALSO BASED ON RUMORS I HAVE HEARD, THE "TIE-IN" ON THE FRENCH DEAL SEEMS TO BE JUST THE OPPOSITE FROM HIS SUPPOSITION. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS MY SUSPICION THAT SHAH IS REFUSING TO SIGN THE CONTRACTS FOR THE TWO ADDITIONAL FRAMATOMES UNTIL AND UNLESS HE RECEIVES FRENCH ASSURANCES THAT THE REPROCESSING DEAL WITH PAKISTAN WILL BE CANCELLED.

5. GERMAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED RELIEF AT THIS INTERPRETATION, BUT OPINED THAT PRESSURE OF THIS TYPE WAS THE WRONG WAY TO CHANGE THE FRENCH POSITION. WE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE RECENT DECISION BY THE MLA TO PROLONG MARTIAL LAW IN PAKISTAN OFFERED THE FRENCH A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THEIR PLANS, IF THEY SO DESIRE.

6. COMMENT: WE WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SHAH'S TACTICS IN THIS CASE AND WILL, INDEED, ASK THE FRENCH CHARGE FOR HIS VERSION OF THE SITUATION. IN MEANTIME, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION FROM PARIS OR ELSEWHERE ON THIS STATE OF PLAY.

SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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